

a first information indicating a first task control block for a sequentially first task among tasks in the digital signal processor, and a second task control block for a sequentially last task among the tasks in the digital signal processor,

a priority link group of priority links, a number of the priority links being equal to a number of priority levels of the tasks in the digital signal processor, and

a second information indicating a third task control block for a sequentially first task among tasks having same priority among the tasks in the digital signal processor, and a fourth task control block for a sequentially last task among the tasks having same priority; and

an operating system for setting the first and second information according to conditions of tasks for the digital signal processor, and controlling switching between the tasks of the ready queue. (Applicant's independent claim 1).

Baker, which is in the field of real-time, concurrent, multifunction digital signal processor subsystems, does not disclose or suggest such a unique combination of features. One of the features of Applicant's claimed invention is a ready queue link which comprises, *inter alia*, "a first information indicating ... a second task control block for a sequentially last task among the tasks in the digital signal processor," and "a second information indicating ... a fourth task control block for a sequentially last task among the tasks having same priority" (Applicant's claim 1). The Examiner alleges that Baker discloses such a feature at col. 4, lines 5-51, col. 10, lines 10-65, col. 12 lines 33-68, and Fig 8. (see Office Action, page 3, lines 9-19). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In particular, Baker discloses a digital signal processor (DSP) operable under a DSP real-time operating system (RTOS) to concurrently handle a plurality of different signal processing

functions on a real-time basis (see *Id.*, Abstract). Baker's RTOS includes a time management system (TMS) utility for inserting tasks into a prioritized execution queue which:

always has the task with the smallest COUNT [indicative of a task's priority] at the top of the queue and those tasks with successively larger COUNTs toward the bottom of the queue (see *Id.*, col. 10, line 10 through col. 11, line 32).

Baker also discloses a "QMS utility task [which] is a special TMS task which manages only homogeneous groups of synchronous real-time task [and] is linked to the TMS task as a single real-time task" (see *Id.*, col. 11, lines 14 through col. 12, line 32). In the context of the QMS, Baker describes a task control block (TCB) which "provides system information about the task and a limited number of user links to other tasks' TCBs" (see *Id.*, col. 11, line 33 through col. 12, line 68). Baker further discloses a list of specific fields of information which are contained in each TCB (see *Id.*, col. 13, line 47 through col. 15, line 2). Nowhere does Baker disclose, teach or suggest that its TMS utility obtains, stores or uses information indicative of a task control block for a sequentially last task among the tasks in its DSP. Likewise, nowhere does Baker disclose, teach or suggest that its TMS utility, or its QMS utility, obtains, stores or uses information indicative of a task control block for a sequentially last task among the tasks having the same priority in its DSP.

Therefore, Applicant's independent claim 1, as well as its dependent claims 2-13 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their base claim), would not have been obvious from Baker at least for this reason.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

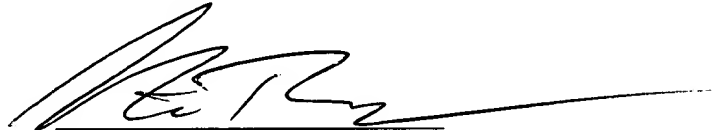
Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln No. 09/685,877

Atty Dkt No. Q61029

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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